

State of Domestic Abuse in Central Indiana

An Initial Report by the Domestic Violence Network

2008

Released Fall 2010



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

DVN's mission is to end domestic abuse by engaging the community through advocacy, education and collaboration. DVN unveiled the first Family Violence Community-Wide Plan in 2000 and continues to lead the charge in developing intentional and collaborative community initiatives through the *Peace in Our Homes: A Call to End Domestic Abuse in Central Indiana* plan. For more information about DVN, visit www.DVNconnect.org or call 317-872-1086.

The State of Domestic Abuse Report was identified as a strategy in the *Peace in Our Homes* plan to inform the public about the state of domestic abuse in our community. By gathering and sharing this data, Central Indiana can continue to develop and implement appropriate and impactful efforts to prevent, respond to and address domestic abuse.

The geographic area of the first report is primarily Marion County, including shelter data, protective orders, criminal statistics and homicides. Some shelter and crisis call data from surrounding counties have been provided. Future reports will include full data sets for outlying counties. The 2009/2010 report will also include Hendricks and Hamilton Counties.

The issue of data integrity far exceeded our expectation which resulted in difficulty with identifying community gaps and needs. DVN quickly found that each agency has their own policies, definitions and systems for tracking data. This led to inconsistencies and duplicate reporting on the same individual because they may be requesting services from multiple agencies. Conversely, many victims do not report their abuse and these individuals are not represented in this report. This initial report is a baseline for future reports. The exploration and development of consistent definitions of data sets and centralized data locations should be considered as DVN moves forward with subsequent reports.

THE STATE OF DOMESTIC ABUSE IN CENTRAL INDIANA

The State of Domestic Abuse in Central Indiana Report is focused on crisis calls, shelter usage, demographic information and arrest and court data from the criminal justice system.

The report findings raise several questions. Comparing Information and Referral calls from 2004-08, Connect2Help experienced an increase from 1,877 calls in 2004 to 3,505 calls in 2008, while the Julian Center and Sheltering Wings remained consistent. We can speculate that more people became aware of Connect2Help as a resource rather than an almost 100% increase in domestic abuse in our community. While reading Tables 2 and 3, Marion County is the largest county in Indiana, and it may be appropriate to conclude that Marion County would have the most number of calls. However, does this mean that the smaller counties have less domestic abuse or less reporting of abuse? Or is there more lack of awareness in these counties? While Marion County does have more resources based on population, are the smaller, surrounding counties lacking the resources that they may need to address domestic abuse in their community or do the smaller counties actually have more resources per capita? There is also a significant increase in the emergency bed space activation and usage, activating 12 beds in 2003 and increasing to 889 in 2007 and dropping back down to 327 in 2008. Is this significant increase due to awareness of the emergency bed space program?

Analyzing the Criminal Justice statistics and identifying useful and meaningful information was a challenge due to the overwhelming amount of data while at the same time, much data is lacking. Reading Table 13, there are several data integrity issues that affect the value of this data. IMPD may or may not have recorded the appropriate run codes into their system. Additionally, a person may have resided at more than one residence during the year, thus duplicating numbers. High traffic addresses, such as hospitals, will also have a higher reporting frequency. Tables 11-13: reflect data from the JUSTIS system (Justice Information System of Indianapolis/Marion County), which tracks the data for the Marion County Superior Courts. Prosecutors will often file multiple charges at the onset of a case based on preliminary information. Some charges may later be dismissed leaving prosecution to focus on charges that may have a more successful conviction rate. Many cases are dismissed altogether because of lack of cooperation on the victim's behalf. Additionally, charges such as murder, manslaughter and attempted murder do not have the added "domestic violence" charge. Table 12 reflects the number of murders, including children and bystanders, as well as, murder/suicides by county as self reported by the county domestic abuse agencies.

DVN will continue to bring the State of Domestic Abuse Report to the community annually. The report is a key strategy to ensuring that the community is aware and informed of the prevalence and impact domestic abuse has in Central Indiana.

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE PROJECT COMMITTEE

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A special thank you to the Indianapolis Foundation, a CICF affiliate, for their generous grant to support the State of Domestic Abuse in Central Indiana Project.

SECTION 1: CRISIS AND DOMESTIC ABUSE CALLS

Table 1: Domestic Violence Information, Referral and Crisis Calls

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Total DV Calls: Connect2Help ⁽¹⁾	1,877	2,451	2,718	3,267	3,505
Total Crisis Calls: Julian Center ⁽²⁾	6,810	7,193	5,960	7,582	5,562
Total Crisis Calls: Sheltering Wings ⁽³⁾	1,234	1,205	1,282	1,458	1,405
Total Crisis Calls: Alternatives ⁽⁴⁾		11,716	13,785	9,530	11,090

Table 2: Domestic Abuse Calls-Marion County Connect2Help⁽⁵⁾

	# Marion County DV Calls	# All DV Calls	# All Incoming Calls
2000	434	493	25,573
2001	510	566	31,763
2002	826	938	43,523
2003	971	1,068	52,392
2004	1,603	1,877	67,101
2005	2,063	2,451	93,233
2006	2,178	2,718	111,714
2007	2,525	3,267	132,722
2008	2,520	3,505	188,134

Table 3: Domestic Abuse Calls-By County Connect2Help⁽⁶⁾

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Boone	0	4	14	6	14	15	18
Hamilton	12	15	36	52	71	75	87
Hancock	6	4	11	17	20	18	21
Hendricks	14	14	31	60	53	66	62
Johnson	23	10	32	49	54	79	86
Madison	n/a	n/a	7	8	10	18	23
Marion	826	971	1603	2063	2178	2525	2520
Morgan	10	6	15	14	19	20	28
Shelby	2	1	4	8	15	10	23

SECTION 2: RACE OF VICTIM AND RELATIONSHIP TO ABUSER

Table 4: DV Victim Race: Connect2Help⁽⁷⁾ (July-December 2008)

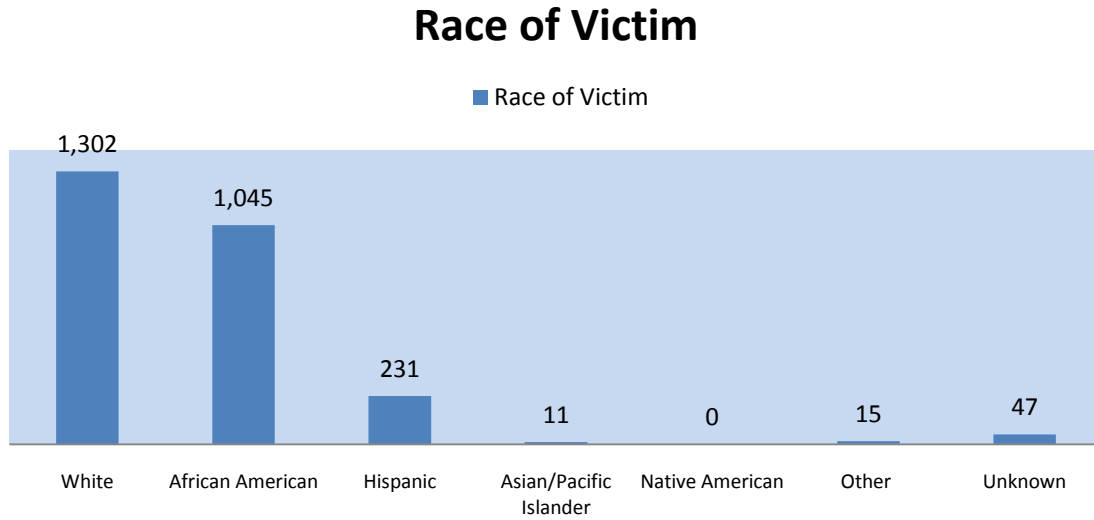
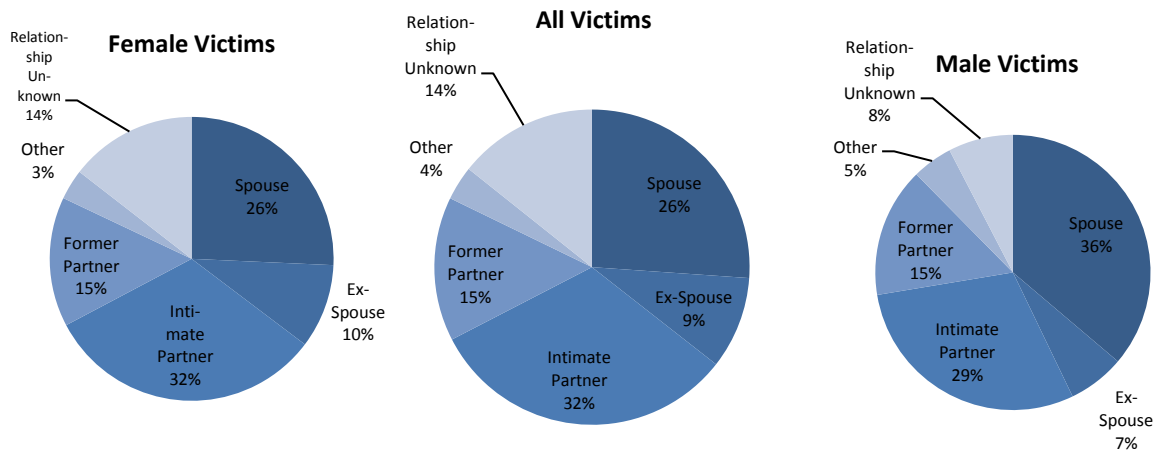


Table 5: DV Victim Relationship to Abuser: Connect2Help 2008⁽⁸⁾



SECTION 3: SHELTER AND EMERGENCY BED SPACE USAGE

**Table 6: Number of Individuals Served in Shelters:
Indiana Coalition *Against* Domestic Violence ⁽⁹⁾**

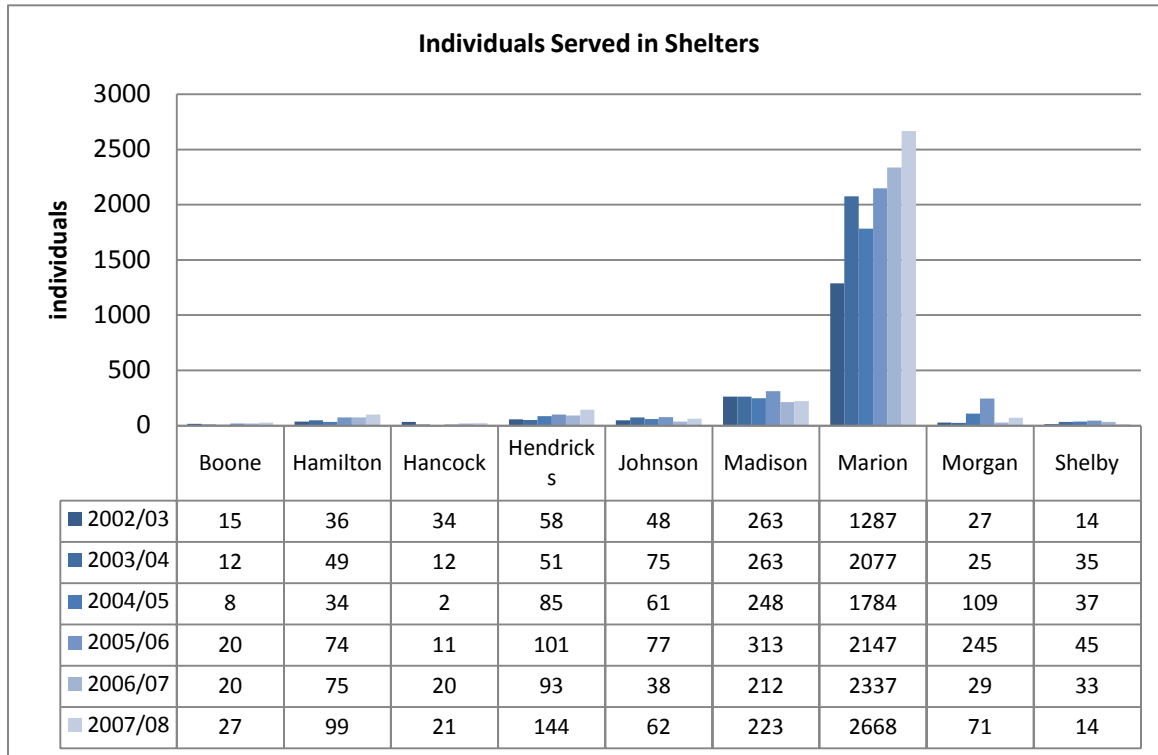


Table 7: Emergency Bed Space Activation and Use (2003/08) ⁽¹⁰⁾

	Nights EBS Activated	Number of Singles Served	Number of Families Served
2003	12	n/a	n/a
2004	6	6	2
2005	20	11	1
2006	188	57	31
2007	889	184	57
2008	327	51	65

SECTION 4: CRIMINAL AND CIVIL JUSTICE

In Fiscal year 2008/2009, 20 men, women and children in Central Indiana lost their lives due to domestic abuse. These numbers are self reported by agencies. They include anyone who lost their life because of domestic abuse, whether they were the primary victim, child, by-stander or suicide after murder.

**Table 8: Domestic Violence Fatalities by county
Indiana Coalition *Against* Domestic Violence ⁽¹¹⁾**

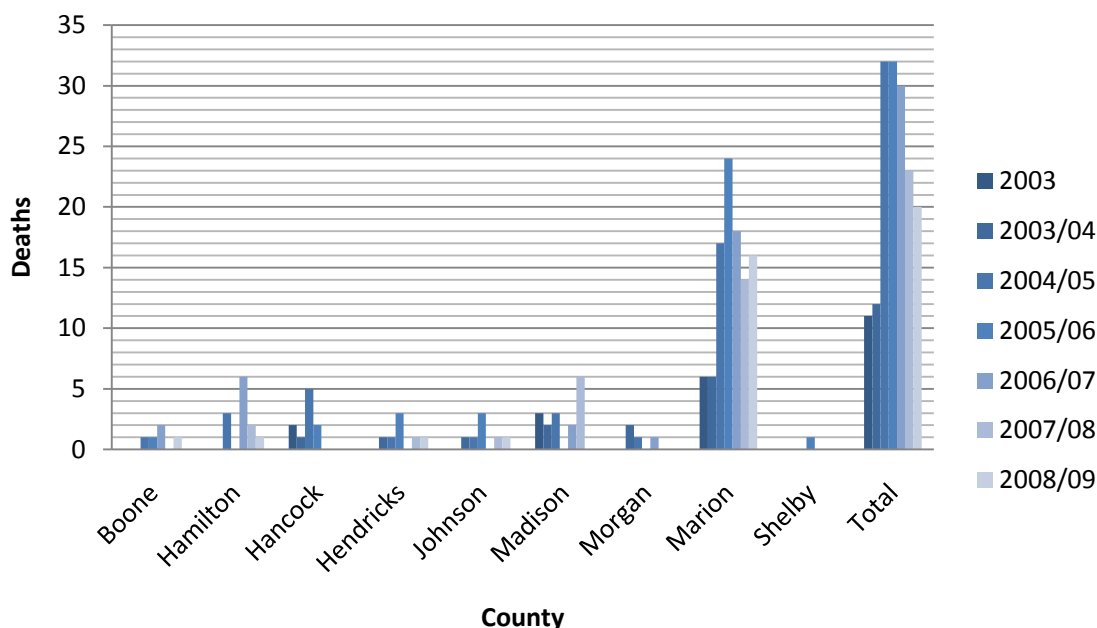


Table 9: Protection Order: Marion County Superior Court 21 ⁽¹²⁾

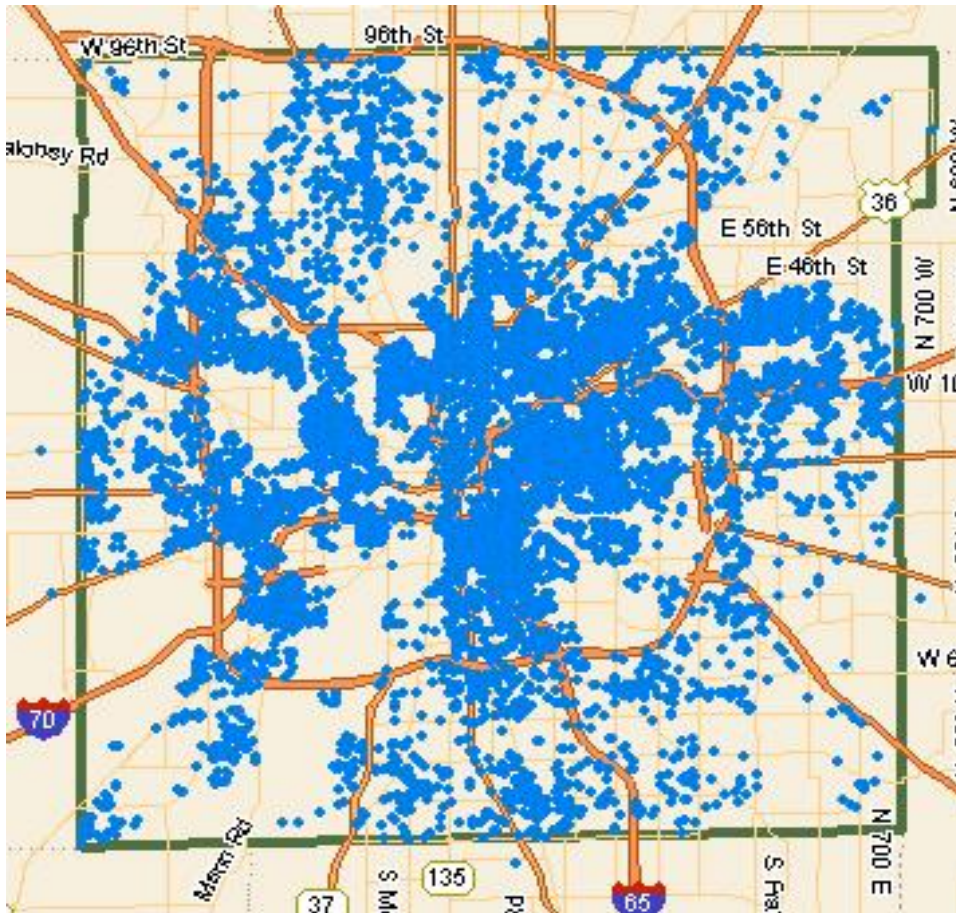
Court	2008	2009
Court 21	3557	4307

Orders of Protection are initiated out of Court 21 and can be ruled on in another court if there is a divorce or paternity case. Juvenile Court can also issue Orders of Protection, but there is not data to reflect how many have been issued. Courts 16 and 17 issue No Contact Orders attached to a criminal case. A victim of domestic violence may have both orders.

SECTION 5: 2008 IMPD DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RUNS AND CHARGES

Approximately 17,344 calls to dispatch resulting in runs by the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department in 2008 were coded for domestic violence. The following shows the geographic distribution of these calls and does not include Speedway, Lawrence or Beech Grove law enforcement agency response.

2008 IMPD DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RUNS ⁽¹³⁾



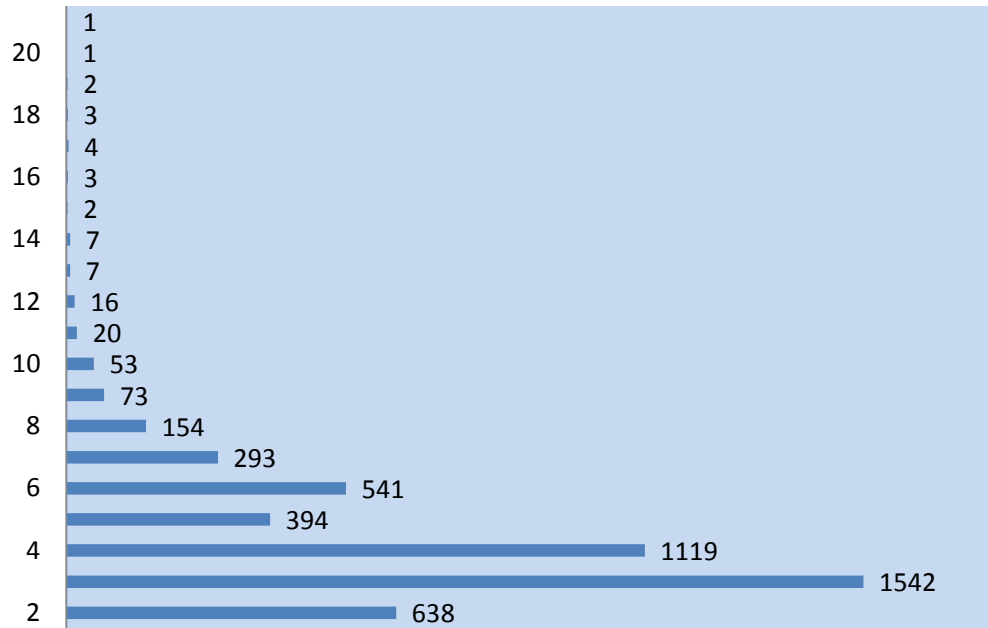
DVN consultant geocoded addresses provided by IMPD using BusinessMap 5.0. IMPD Computer Aided Dispatch records with run codes of "DOM" or description of "DOM".

Table 10: IMPD Runs in 2008 Coded as Domestic Violence⁽¹³⁾

Number of Runs to an Address	Total Number of Addresses
1	10,322
2	1,847
3	533
4	199
5	80
6	24
7	20
8	9
9	8
10	7
11	2
12	2
13	1
15	1
19	1

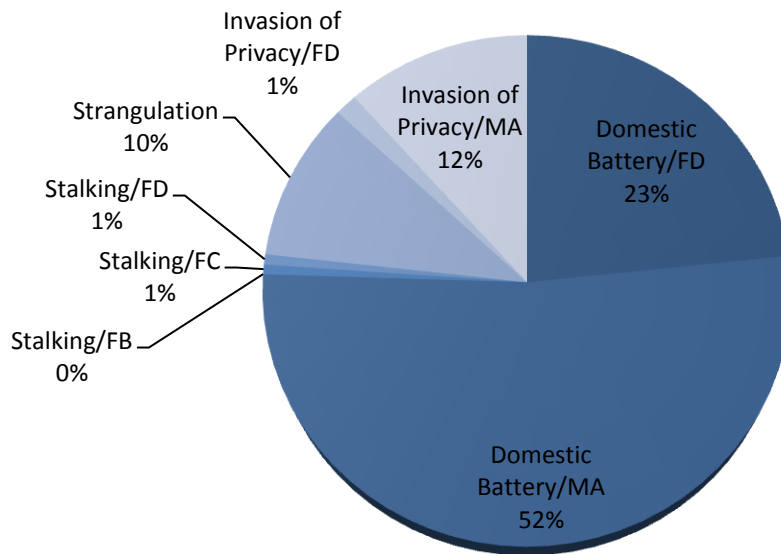
There are several data integrity issues that affect the usefulness of the Runs Location Map and Number of Runs to the Same Address graph. With current reporting procedures it is not possible to capture all domestic run data via the run code fields because many run types could potentially involve domestic violence but not include the text string *DOM* in the RUNCODE or DESCRIPT field. Conversely, radio runs records represent preliminary data and records that do include the text string "DOM" may not involve domestic abuse or may involve a domestic situation other than the subject being reported (i.e., parent-child v. husband-wife). A person might have lived at or experienced domestic abuse at more than one address in 2008. This data only reflects runs to particular addresses and is not associated with individual cases. In addition, a particular address, such as a hospital, with high traffic for the homeless population might have been listed in multiple reports. Records are not provided for the excluded cities of Beech Grove, Lawrence or Speedway.

Table 11: Number of Charges per Cases (JUSTIS 2008): Marion County⁽¹⁴⁾

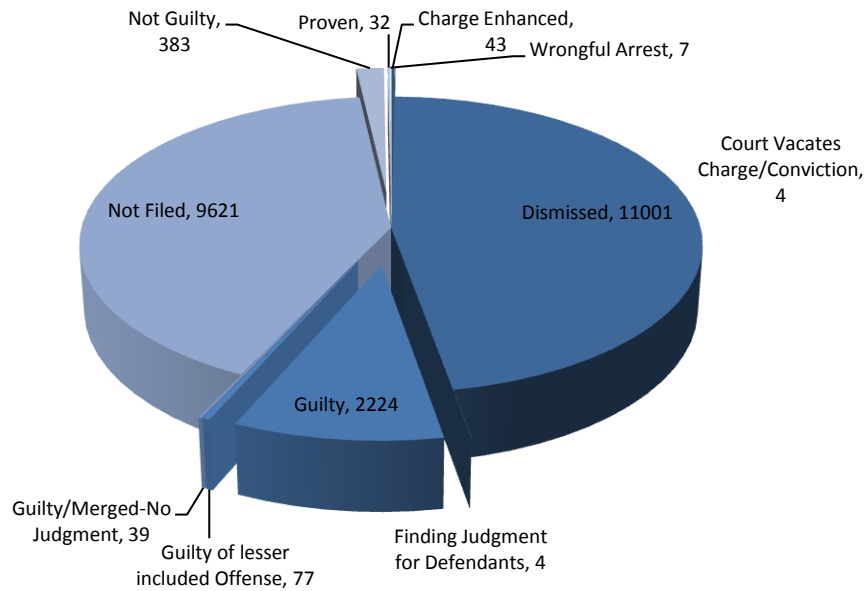


The total number of cases is 5,413

Table 12: Number of Charges (JUSTIS 2008) Marion County⁽¹⁴⁾



**Table 13: Charge Disposition (JUSTIS)
Marion County 2008⁽¹⁴⁾**

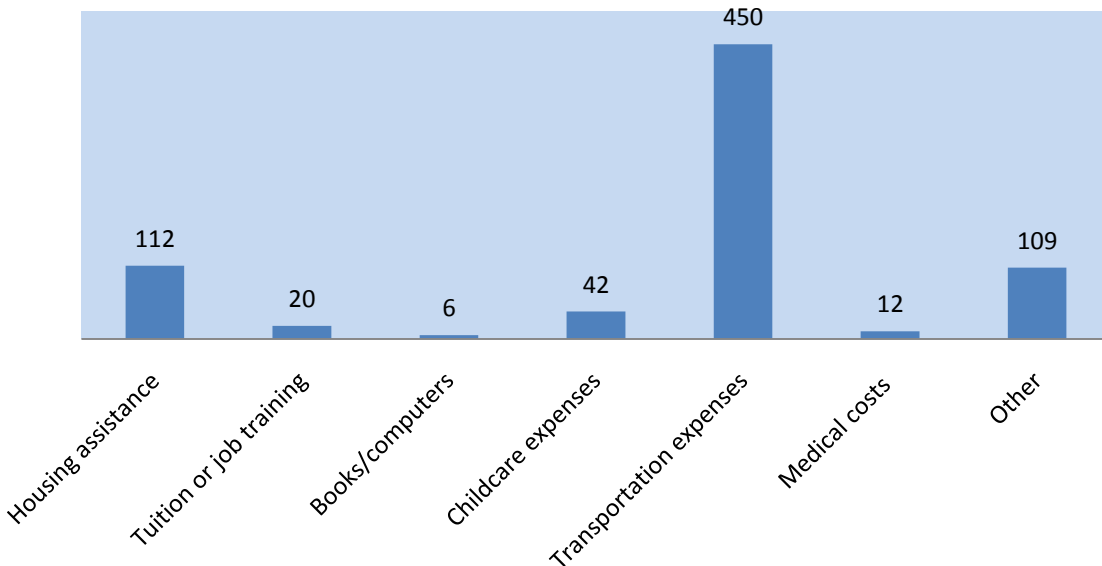


Prosecutors often file multiple charges at the onset of a case based on preliminary information. Some of these charges are later dropped to focus on charges that may have a more successful conviction rate based on better evidence, plea agreements or longer sentences. Many cases are dismissed due to lack of victim cooperation. It appears that not all cases involving domestic violence included the added charge “domestic violence” including murder, manslaughter, and attempted murder. Prosecuting staff have been reminded of proper procedure.

SECTION 6: FOCUS ON THE NEEDS.....

Each year, DVN will highlight one topic that is of interest to the community and provide data on the topic. This topic will not be carried over into future reports, but will highlight certain needs and/or improvements that domestic abuse victims and survivors are facing. This year the impact of the Economic Self Sufficiency Fund (SSF) will be shown. The SSF provided funding to assist 761 survivors supported through case management from seven different domestic abuse agencies. The seven agencies included Business Ownership Initiative of Indiana, Coburn Place, Family Services of Central Indiana, Fresh Start, The Julian Center, Legacy House, and Salvation Army Social Services Center. Through the generous support of Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust and Allstate Foundation, DVN was awarded \$100,000 to support these agencies with assisting clients working to gain economic self sufficiency. The top needs for the survivors were:

Self Sufficiency Needs



SECTION 7: KEY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Through the process of gathering data for this report DVN is providing the following recommendations for subsequent reports:

- Need for a centralized data repository
- In 2009/2010 individual contacts and data locations were identified for future reports
- Exploration and development of consistent definitions of data sets
- A laddered system will be developed to include data from outlying counties
- 2010 Report will include data for Hendricks and Hamilton Counties
- 2010 Report will include the amount and sources of federal funding awarded in Central Indiana by county

Domestic Violence Counts

The National Census of Domestic Violence Services for Indiana



On September 17, 2008, 26 out of 53, or 49%, of identified domestic violence programs in Indiana participated in the 2008 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information provided by 26 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

1,054 Victims Served In One Day

693 domestic violence victims found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

361 adults and children received non-residential assistance and services, including individual counseling, legal advocacy, and children's support groups.

Percentage of Participating Programs Providing These Services On the Census Day

92%	Individual Support or Advocacy
73%	Emergency Shelter (including hotels or safe houses)
62%	Children's Support or Advocacy
58%	Legal Accompaniment/Services
50%	Advocacy Related to Housing Office/Landlord
46%	Advocacy Related to Child Welfare/CPS

363 Hotline Calls Answered

Domestic violence hotlines are a lifeline for victims in danger, providing support, information, safety planning, and resources. In the 24-hour survey period, domestic violence programs answered more than 15 hotline calls every hour.

707 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 707 individuals in communities across Indiana attended 23 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

67 Unmet Requests for Services In One Day

Many programs reported a critical shortage of funds and staff to assist victims in need of services such as transportation, childcare, language translation, mental health and substance abuse counseling, and legal representation. Of these unmet requests, 50 were from victims seeking emergency shelter or transitional housing.

Programs reported that lack of staffing was a reason that they could not meet domestic violence victims' request for services. 54% of programs have less than 20 paid staff, including 27% of programs that have less than 10 paid staff. The average starting salary of a full-time, salaried front-line advocate is \$23,958.

Attorneys

Victims of domestic violence often need legal assistance with restraining orders and civil and family court matters. Of programs that participated in the Census, only 13% of programs reported being able to regularly connect a victim requesting legal assistance with an attorney.

"Public transportation to our shelter generally requires a minimum of four tickets for a roundtrip. We only receive 200 tickets a month from the City, and we don't have money to purchase tickets so we generally can only fund 50 trips a year."

"Despite increased demand for our services, our state/federal funding have decreased at least 20 percent. We have the highest demand for services in our history but fewer resources to support clients. Transportation services are reduced and clients are receiving less financial assistance."

Domestic Violence Counts: A 24-Hour Census of Domestic Services



'09 Domestic Violence Counts Indiana Summary

On September 15, 2009, 45 out of 48, or 94%, of identified local domestic violence programs in Indiana participated in the 2009 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information provided by the 45 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

1,795 Victims Served in One Day

1,069 domestic violence victims found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

726 adults and children received non-residential assistance and services, including individual counseling, legal advocacy, and children's support groups.

This chart shows the percentage of programs that provided the following services on the Census Day.

Services Provided by Local Programs:	Sept 15
Individual Support or Advocacy	98%
Emergency Shelter	69%
Children's Support or Advocacy	69%
Advocacy Related to Child Welfare/Protective Services	42%
Transportation	60%
Court Accompaniment/Advocacy	49%
Job Training/Employment Assistance	44%
Advocacy Related to Mental Health	38%

657 Hotline Calls Answered

Domestic violence hotlines are a lifeline for victims in danger, providing support, information, safety planning, and resources. In the 24-hour survey period, domestic violence programs answered approximately 27 hotline calls every hour.

736 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 736 individuals in communities across Indiana attended 35 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

69 Unmet Requests for Services

Many programs reported a critical shortage of funds and staff to assist victims in need of services, such as emergency shelter, housing, transportation, childcare, and legal representation. Of these unmet requests, 53 (77%) were from victims seeking emergency shelter or transitional housing.

Programs were unable to provide services for many reasons, as reported below.

- 🏠 29% reported not enough staff.
- 🏠 16% reported no available beds or funding for hotels.
- 🏠 29% reported not enough funding for needed programs and services.
- 🏠 18% reported not enough specialized services.
- 🏠 7% reported limited funding for translators, bilingual staff, or accessible equipment.

"We've had a 32% increase in clients this year as a result of the economic downturn. We need more long-term, transitional support programs, and more funding for non-residential, follow-up supportive services."

"Our length of shelter stay has increased dramatically. We've found ways to assist clients requesting shelter even when we don't have space by increasing services and working with non-shelter clients on a long-term basis."



2009 Domestic Violence Counts: A 24-Hour Census of Domestic Violence Shelters and Services

Sources and Notes

- ¹Connect 2Help
These are calls in which any mention was made of domestic abuse (past or present); underlying situation is marked DV; all DV calls are reviewed by a Supervisor. Totals include those calls from victims, professionals, abusers and others
- ²Julian Center
Located in Marion County. Incoming Calls
- ³Sheltering Wings
Located in Hendricks County. Incoming Calls
- ⁴Alternatives
Alternatives answers the State Wide Crisis Line.
- ⁵Connect2Help
These are calls in which any mention was made of domestic abuse (past or present); underlying situation is marked DV; all DV calls are reviewed by a Supervisor.
- ⁶Connect2Help
These are calls in which any mention was made of domestic abuse (past or present); underlying situation is marked DV; all DV calls are reviewed by a Supervisor.
- ⁷Connect2Help
IMPORTANT NOTE: Race data provided here is for Victims ONLY; not secondary victims, professionals, others or abusers
- ⁸Connect2Help
These are the relationship breakdowns for callers with an underlying situation of DV where the answer to “caller is” (the popup on the DV page in Iris) is “victim”. Does not include secondary victim.
- ⁹Indiana Coalition *Against*
Domestic Violence
Information provided by programs throughout Indiana receiving funding administered by Family & Social Services Administration (FSSA).
- ¹⁰Salvation Army
Located in Marion County.
- ¹¹Indiana Coalition *Against*
Domestic Violence
Compiled from Annual Program Reports: Note all presumed accurate, but this information is supplied by member programs.
- ¹²Marion County
Superior Court
Orders of Protection are initiated out of Court 21 and can be ruled on in another court if there is a divorce or paternity case. Juvenile Court can also issue Orders of Protection, but there is not data on how many were issued. Courts 16 and 17 issue No Contact Orders attached to a criminal case. A victim of domestic violence may have both orders.
- ¹³Indianapolis/Marion County
Police Department (IMPD)
There are several data integrity issues that affect the value of this data. It is not possible to capture all domestic run data via the run code fields because many run types could potentially involve domestic violence but not include the text string *DOM* in the RUNCODE or DESCRIPT field. Conversely, radio runs records represent preliminary data and records that do include the text string

"DOM" may not involve domestic abuse or may involve a domestic situation other than the subject being reported (i.e., parent-child v. husband-wife).

¹⁴Marion County
Superior Court

Prosecutors often file multiple charges at the onset of a case based on preliminary information. Some of these charges are later dropped to focus on charges that may have a more successful conviction rate based on better evidence, plea agreements, or longer sentences. Many cases are dismissed due to lack of victim cooperation. It appears that not all cases involving domestic violence included the added charge "domestic violence" including murder, manslaughter, and attempted murder. Prosecuting staff have been reminded of proper procedure. Data was extracted from the JUSTIS Data Warehouse (A set of tables generated from a monthly extract of records from the MCJA Justice Information System).